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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Salazar ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/08  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 131  
SHORT TITLE Science & Math Supercomputer School Training SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 131 appropriates \$200.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for a statewide program to provide training on supercomputers for middle school and high school students in science, mathematics, engineering and technology applications and to strengthen teaching techniques in science, mathematics, engineering and technology.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

This request was not submitted by NMIMT to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review. The Department's funding recommendation for FY09 is a continuance of FY08 recurring funding in the amount of \$60,000.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states that:

New Mexico Tech is a long-time host of the New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge. The New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge provides a learning experience for teams of pre-college students in scientific inquiry, project management, computational analysis and presentation skills. The challenge is a year-long state wide competition for prizes and scholarships. The goal of The New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge is to have at least one student team compete from each mid-school and high school in New Mexico and at least one teacher/sponsor with the necessary skills to support student teams by 2012.

The opportunity to work on the most powerful computers in the world is currently available to only a very few students in the entire United States; for New Mexico students the program offers a unique experience. The New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge is open to all interested students in grades 7 through 12 on a non-selective basis. Participants come from public, private, parochial and home-based schools in all areas of New Mexico. The program has no grade point, class enrollment or computer experience prerequisites. Students and teachers are shown how to use supercomputers, learn programming languages, how to analyze data and write reports.

The New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge is offered at minimal cost to the participants and the New Mexico school districts sending representatives. The funds from HB131 will be used to offset costs incurred by students, teachers, and school districts to attend or send representatives to the supercomputing conference. The Challenge Year opens with a Kickoff, held at the Glorieta Conference Center, a tour with talks and demonstrations of technology at Sandia National Laboratory, and a Project Expo and judging followed by an Awards Ceremony at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge is sponsored by a partnership of federal laboratories, universities, and businesses who provide food and lodging for the kickoff conference.

The PED states that this legislation supports Goal 1 of PED's A Strategic Action Plan for Advancing Math and Science Education in New Mexico 2007-2010 : "Increase student interest, participation and achievement in math and science".

GH/mt